

Meeting Objectives and Agenda

Multi-stakeholder Platform for Protecting Biodiversity: Inception Meeting

UN House – Beirut, Lebanon
12 & 13 July 2023



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Meeting Objectives

- Discuss the importance of **prioritizing biodiversity conservation in climate action and finance**
- **Establish three working groups** on selected three regional biodiversity priorities:
 - **Nature-based solutions for climate resilience**
 - **Land degradation in arid agricultural ecosystems**
 - **Renewable energy and Biodiversity**
- **Reach agreement on coordination mechanisms and follow-up plan** for such multi-stakeholder knowledge network that addresses common solutions to biodiversity challenges
- **Facilitate the mobilization of finance** for biodiversity conservation and restoration projects by supporting the development of **bankable projects by the three working groups.**



Technical Notes

Outline of Technical Notes

- Introduction (rational for choosing the thematic area as a biodiversity hot topic)
- Linkage to the 2030 Agenda and MEAs
- Current Status in the region
- Major Challenges (trade-offs, costs, lessons learned...)
- Opportunities for Action (Offering ideas for developing projects)

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM FOR PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM FOR PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Land Degradation in Arid Agricultural Systems

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM FOR PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Renewable Energy and Biodiversity

Background

Conserving biodiversity in the Arab region requires collaborative efforts involving various stakeholders operating across different sectors and scales. A common regional platform offers diverse stakeholder groups the opportunity to come together to exchange knowledge and lessons learned, build consensus on regional priorities, and identify pathways to address common priorities.

This multi-stakeholder platform for protecting biodiversity in the Arab region launched by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) with the support of the Government of Sweden fosters regional engagement for the preparation of projects for mobilizing finance for biodiversity conservation efforts within the context of strengthening climate resilience in the Arab region.

Objectives

- Facilitate collaboration and coordination between stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation in the Arab region.
- Enhance understanding, exchange and action on regional challenges affecting biodiversity in the Arab region.
- Foster the development of bankable projects to mobilize finance for the implementation of priority actions in biodiversity conservation, for enhancing climate resilience.

Working Group

This technical note informs the discussions of the Working Group on Renewable Energy and Biodiversity. The working group aims to formulate opportunities to advance renewable energy applications while protecting biodiversity and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation for enhanced climate resilience in the Arab region.

collaboration and coordination between stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation in the Arab region.

Understanding, exchange and action on regional challenges affecting biodiversity in the Arab region. The working group aims to mobilize finance for the implementation of priority actions in biodiversity conservation, for enhancing climate resilience.

Up

This technical note informs the discussions of the Working Group on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience. The working group aims to formulate opportunities for pursuing actions to protect biodiversity and contributing to climate change adaptation, integrated natural resource management in arid agricultural ecosystems.

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Meeting Agenda – 12 July

Session 1:

Climate Action through Biodiversity Conservation in the Arab Region

- Current **regional priorities** related to biodiversity
- Available **opportunities** for implementing biodiversity conservation under a changing climate
- Regional **updates on Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** and other relevant MEAs.
- Successful **examples** from the region on **integrated and inclusive approaches** to biodiversity conservation and enhanced resilience

Session Duration: 1 hour (9:30-10:30)

Session 1
Climate Action through Biodiversity Conservation in the Arab Region

Moderator: Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

9:30 – 10:30

Panel discussion

- Ms. Natalia Boulad, Programme Manager, Protected Areas, World Heritage and Biodiversity Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Office for West Asia (Online)
- Ms. Elsa Sattout, Programme Specialist, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Cairo Office
- Ms. Geetha Nayak, Regional Coordinator, Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Regional Office for West Asia, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ROWA)
- Mr. Belal Qtiqhat, Chair of the Arab Working Group on the Implementation of Biodiversity and Desertification Related Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Director of Nature Protection Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Online)
- Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah, Head of Secretariat, Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), Director, Environmental Meteorological Affairs Department, League of Arab States (LAS)

Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break



Meeting Agenda – 12 July

Session 2:

Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Resilience with NBS

- **Potential and challenges** of NBS in the Arab region
- Main **enablers and accelerators** for a successful implementation of NBS
- **Success** stories from the region highlighting the key **role of regional cooperation, partnerships, and networks** in fostering NBS for biodiversity conservation and enhanced resilience.

Session 2	Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions
Moderator:	Mr. Tarek Sadek, Water Resource and Climate Change Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
11:00 – 11:15	Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience – Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Dima Kharbotli, Economic Affairs Assistant, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
11:15 – 12:30	Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Dania Abdul Malak, Director, ETC-UMA, University of Malaga (Online)• Ms. Suhad Al-Hedny, University Lecturer, Environmental Sciences, Al-Qasim Green University, Republic of Iraq• Mr. Hazem Cherni, Project Coordinator, Les Amis de CAPTE, Republic of Tunisia• Mr. Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Adviser, Water, Environment and Blue Economy, Union for the Mediterranean (Online)• Mr. Khaleel Abu Afifeh, Forest Expert, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
	Discussion

Session Duration: 1 hour 30 min (11:00 - 12:30)



Meeting Agenda – 12 July

Session 3: Preserving Biodiversity and Combating Land Degradation in Agricultural Ecosystems

- Priority **solutions and actions** to reduce land degradation and biodiversity loss in arid agricultural ecosystems.
- Case studies from the region on implementing **biodiversity conservation activities to enhance the resilience and adaptation of agricultural ecosystems and food systems**
- **Impact of conflicts on land and biodiversity** and the applicable post-conflict restoration scenarios

Session Duration: 1 hour 30 min (12:30 - 14:00)

Session 3 Preserving Biodiversity and Combating Land Degradation in Agricultural Ecosystems	
Moderator:	Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies Team, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
12:30 – 12:45	Land Degradation in Arid Agricultural Ecosystems – Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Carla Khater, Research Director, Senior Ecologist, National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS), Republic of Lebanon
12:45 – 14:00	Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Theresa Wong, Natural Resources Officer (Climate Change), Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/RNE)Ms. Ahlam Marouf, Biodiversity Expert, CBD Coordinator, Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)Mr. Mwaffak Chikh Ali, General Manager, Earth Link & Advanced Resources Development (ELARD), Syrian Arab RepublicMr. Abdallah Alkloub, Project Manager, Land Degradation Neutrality, Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
	Discussion
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch at United Nations House Cafeteria (Ground Floor)



Meeting Agenda – 12 July

Session 4:

Balancing Synergies and Trade-Offs between Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Conservation

- **Trade-offs** between RE and biodiversity conservation
- **Circularity prospects** for RE waste management in the region
- **Best practices** from the region will be shared, such as the protection of migratory birds' trajectories in windmill farms
- **Optimizing the benefits** of RE while **mitigating potential risks** on biodiversity for resilience.

Session 4 Balancing Synergies and Trade-Offs between Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Conservation	
Moderator:	Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy Team, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
15:00 – 15:15	Renewable Energy and Biodiversity – Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Omar Kaaki, Research Assistant, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
15:15 – 15:30	Balancing Renewable Energy Risks and Benefits on Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Ute Collier, Deputy Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) (Online)
15:30 – 16:30	Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Javad El Kharraz, Executive Director, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)• Mr. Ahmed Abdelmaksoud Abdallah, Egypt National Project Coordinator, Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Arab Republic of Egypt• Mr. Gaby Kassab, President and Founder, ECOSERV, Republic of Lebanon Discussion

Session Duration: 1 hour 30 min (15:00 - 16:30)



Meeting Agenda – 12 July

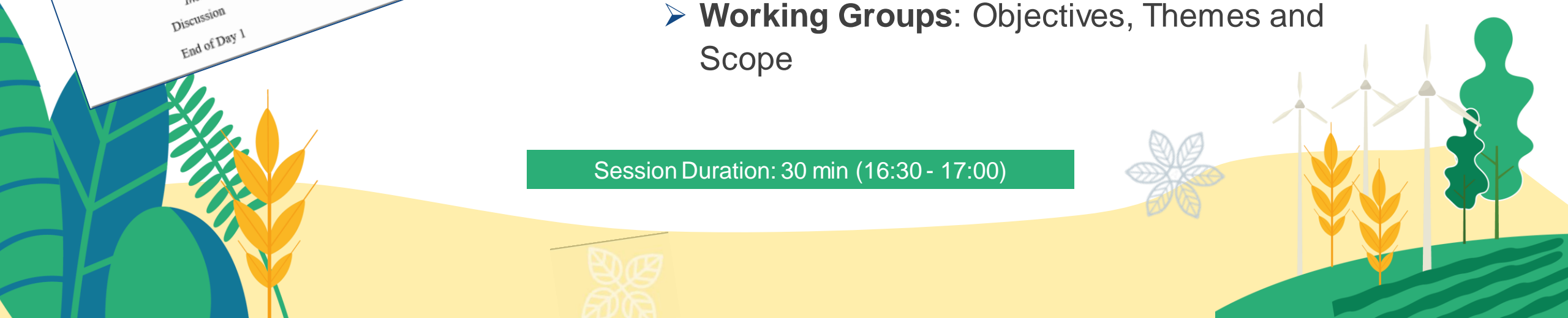
Session 5:

Opportunities for Financing Biodiversity and Framing of Working Groups

- Financing biodiversity: **opportunities and insights**
- **Access to funds** opportunities for Arab region
- Example of implemented **NBS projects**
- **Working Groups:** Objectives, Themes and Scope

Session 5		Opportunities for Financing Biodiversity and Framing of Working Groups	
Moderator:		Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA	
16:30 – 16:45		Financing biodiversity: opportunities and insights	
		• Ms. <i>Imen Mellane</i> , Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (Online)	
16:45 – 17:00		Framing of the Objectives, Themes and Scope of the Working Groups on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience, Land Degradation in Arid Agricultural Ecosystems, and Renewable Energy and Biodiversity	
		• Ms. <i>Julie Abou Arab</i> , Associate Coordination Officer, Climate Resilience for Inclusive Sustainable Development through Regional Cooperation project, ESCWA	
		Discussion	
		End of Day 1	

Session Duration: 30 min (16:30 - 17:00)



Meeting Agenda – 13 July

Session 6:

Access to Finance for Biodiversity Conservation Projects

- Concept of **bankable biodiversity projects**
- **Available financial mechanisms** that support biodiversity conservation and climate action in the region
- **Best ways and strategies** to make a project financially viable and attractive to investors.
- **Case studies and success stories** of bankable biodiversity projects will also be shared.

Session Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes (9:15 - 10:45)

Session 6
Access to Finance for Biodiversity Conservation Projects

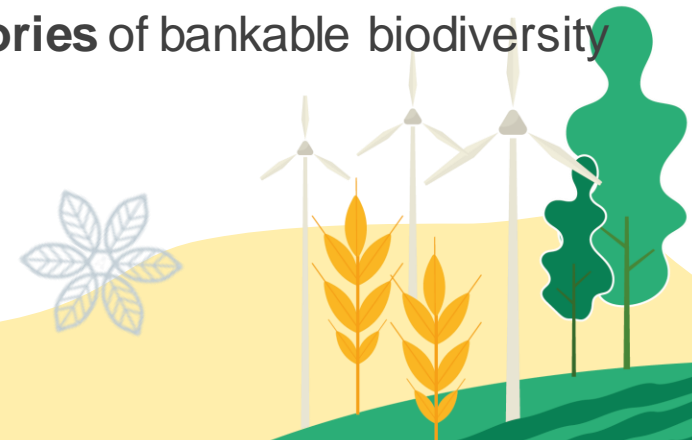
Moderator:
9:15 – 10:45

Ms. Sara Hess, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

Panel discussion:

- Ms. Anita de Horde, Co-founder, Finance for Biodiversity Foundation (Online)
- Mr. Min Yin, Regional Technical Specialist (Ecosystems and Biodiversity), UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States
- Mr. Bradley Hiller, Lead Climate Change and Environment Specialist, Resilience and Climate Action Department, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Ms. Dalia A. Kader, Chief Sustainability Officer, Commercial International Bank, Arab Republic of Egypt
- Mr. Walid Nasr, Lead Regional Technical Specialist, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Mr. Abderrahmane dit Lhaji, Project Coordinator, National Agency for the Development of Oasis and Argan Areas (ANDZOA), Kingdom of Morocco (Online)

Discussion
10:45 – 11:15
Coffee Break



Meeting Agenda – 13 July

Session 7:

Breakout Sessions: Working Group Discussions

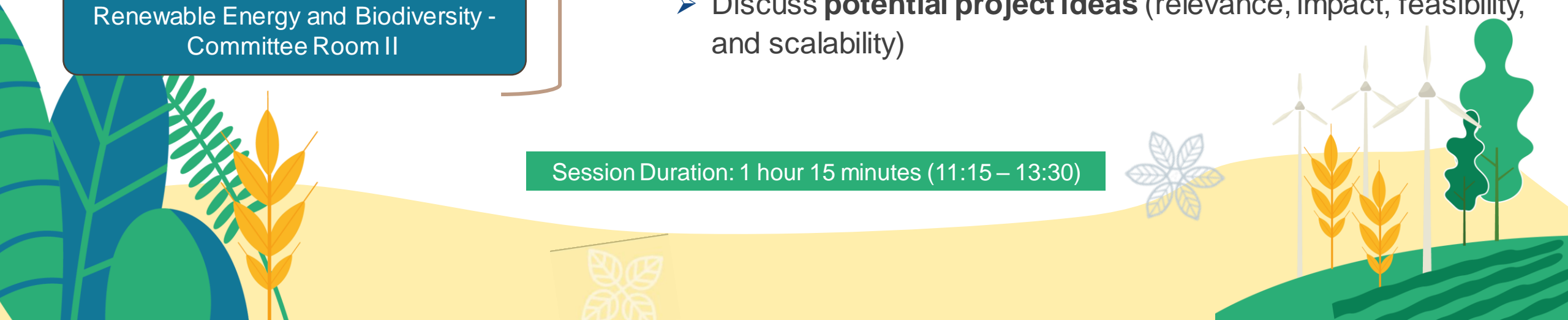
NBS for Climate Resilience – Main Hall Conference Room

Land Degradation in Arid Agricultural Ecosystems – Committee Room I

Renewable Energy and Biodiversity - Committee Room II

- Define **terms of reference, guidelines and timeline**
- Outline the **roles and responsibilities** of working group members
- Identify **key challenges and opportunities** in thematic areas
- Discuss **potential project ideas** (relevance, impact, feasibility, and scalability)

Session Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes (11:15 – 13:30)



Meeting Agenda – 13 July

Session 7

Breakout Sessions: Working Group Discussions

Facilitators:

Working Group on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience

Room: Main Conference Hall (B1)

Link: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvcOyhqD8vHdELpHan7DdszH1kv2Racj9D](https://zoom.us/join/https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvcOyhqD8vHdELpHan7DdszH1kv2Racj9D)
(Same as plenary session link)

- Mr. Tarek Sadek, ESCWA – Facilitator
- Ms. Dima Kharbotli, ESCWA – Rapporteur

Working Group on Land Degradation in Arid Agricultural Ecosystems

Room: Committee Room I (B1)

Link: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkduCvqjkuGNFkreZsur_W7qSyAhELjsCX](https://zoom.us/join/https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkduCvqjkuGNFkreZsur_W7qSyAhELjsCX)

- Ms. Reem Nejdawi, ESCWA – Facilitator
- Ms. Sara Daniel, ESCWA – Rapporteur

Working Group on Renewable Energy and Biodiversity

Room: Committee Room II (B1)

Link: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vdumtqD8iG9VmuwaUB5gcpzk_Icr36tEh](https://zoom.us/join/https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vdumtqD8iG9VmuwaUB5gcpzk_Icr36tEh)

- Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA – Facilitator
- Mr. Omar Kaaki, ESCWA – Rapporteur

Links for
virtual
participation!



Meeting Agenda – 13 July

Session 8: Feedback from Working Groups

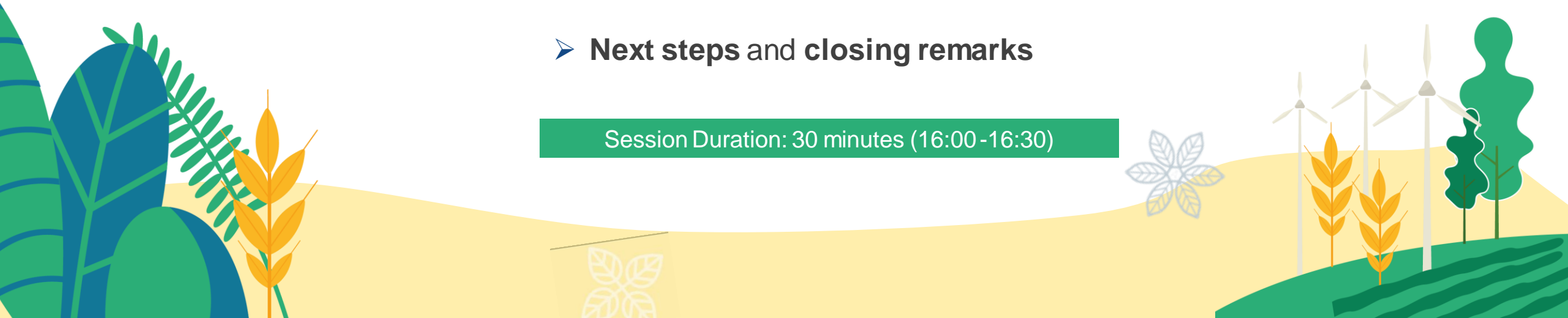
- Reporting back on the **outcomes of the working group discussions**

Session Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes (14:30 – 16:00)

Closing Session

- **Next steps and closing remarks**

Session Duration: 30 minutes (16:00 -16:30)





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Thank you